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ABSTRACT

This book presents a philosophical defense of religious schools and colleges. It attempts to bridge the gap between philosophical argument and educational practice. In placing its argument within the context of liberal-democratic values, the book offers concrete examples of objections to religious schools and offers suggestions that follow from the philosophical treatment of the problem. An introductory chapter provides a contextual background to the objections to religious schools considered in subsequent chapters. It discusses religious schools in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. In examining the objections to religious schools, the book discusses problems of social harmony, including intolerance; parental rights; academic freedom; economic concerns, including funding of religious schools; religious education; and theology and education. The book concludes with a statement: A pluralistic educational system will better prepare students for citizenship in pluralistic liberal democracies than will a monopolistic state-maintained school system. (Contains a subject index, many endnotes, and an extensive bibliography.) (WFA)

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